

## **Legal Notice**

### **Partial Bond Release and Comprehensive Five-Year Bond Review for Magris Talc USA, Inc. (Hard Rock Mine Operating Permit No. 00005)**

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has received a request for partial bond release for Hard Rock Mine Operating Permit No. 00005 issued to Magris Talc USA Inc. (Magris). The Magris facility and associated disturbances are located in Sections 3, 4, 5 of Township 9 South, Range 1 West and Section 32, 33, 34 of Township 8 South, Range 1 West, in Madison County.

DEQ currently maintains the required reclamation bond amount of \$7,714,958. DEQ is proposing to release \$177,681 for the partial completion of reclamation activities, that include recontouring and soil placement on 29.3 acres of previous disturbance. Bond for revegetation of the partially reclaimed disturbance will not be released at this time. After the partial bond release, the required bond amount will be \$7,537,277.

In addition to the request for partial bond release, DEQ is conducting a comprehensive five-year bond review. DEQ determined the current bonding level does not represent the present costs of compliance with the Metal Mine Reclamation Act, administrative rules adopted thereunder, and the operating permit. After accounting for the partial bond release, DEQ is proposing an increase of \$788,965, increasing the required bond from \$7,537,277 to \$8,326,242. The bond increase is largely due to changes in fuel prices, equipment rates, inflation adjustments, and updated estimates for the mining disturbance area in the next five years.

The procedure for adjusting bonds due to a comprehensive bond review is set forth in Section 82-4-338(3), MCA. Pursuant to Section 82-4-338(5), MCA, DEQ may not release or decrease a reclamation bond until the public has been provided an opportunity for a hearing and a hearing has been held if requested. The company and the public will have until June 22, 2022 to comment on these proposed changes to the bond amount. DEQ will issue a final bond determination after the comment period has expired. The company, or any person with an interest that may be adversely affected by DEQ's final bond determination, may obtain a contested case hearing before the Board of Environmental Review. A written request for a hearing must be filed with DEQ within 30 days of the issuance of the final bond determination, stating the reason for the request.

Requests for copies of the bond calculation associated with the comprehensive bond review, and any related questions should be directed to Eric Dahlgren, Hard Rock Mining Section Supervisor, Mining Bureau, Department of Environmental Quality, PO Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620-0901, by telephone at (406) 444-5245 or by e-mail at [edahlgren@mt.gov](mailto:edahlgren@mt.gov).